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NME

BRIT MARLING

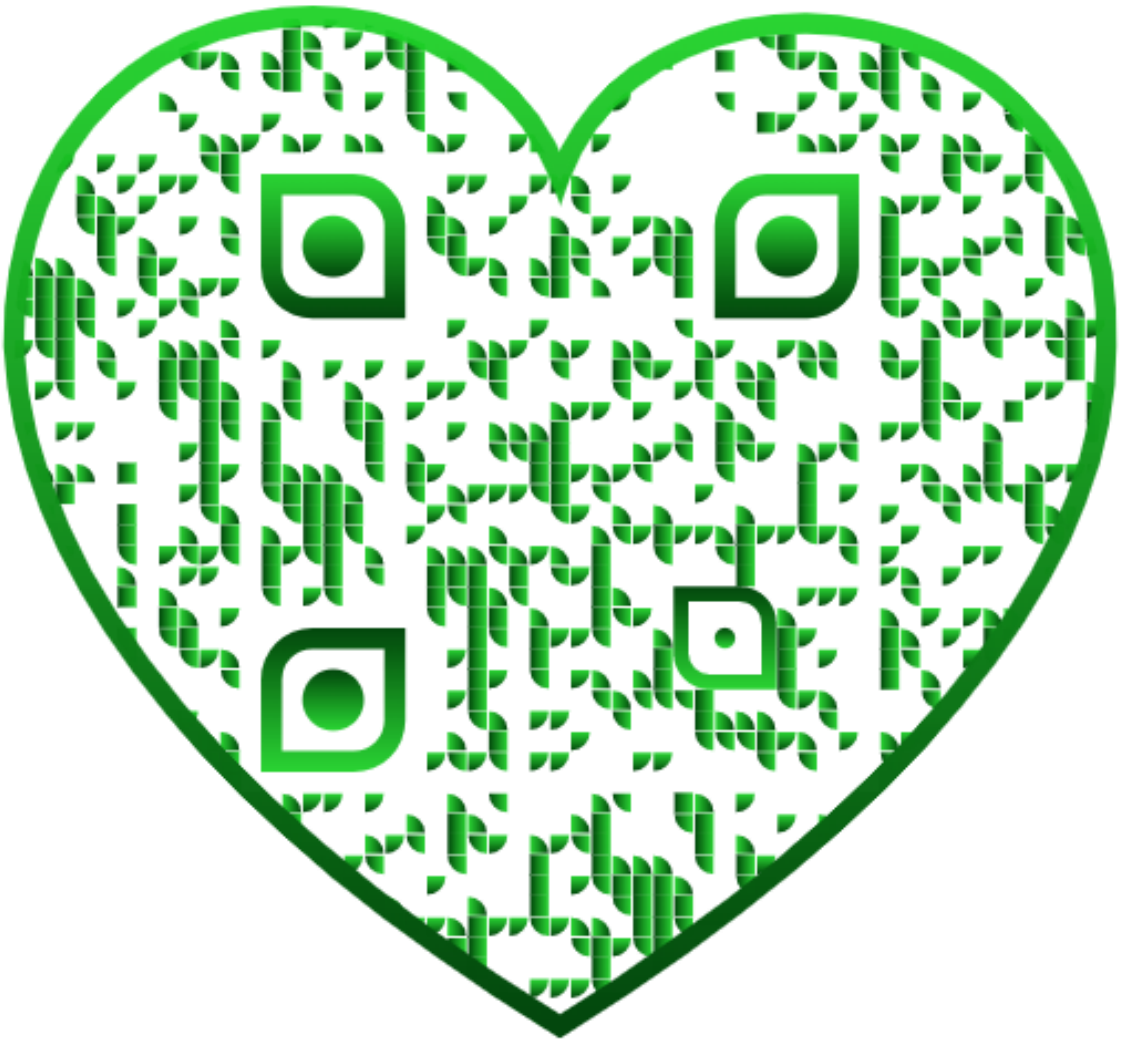
Meet the brains behind cult sensation The OA

+

STRANGEST THINGS

The must-watch mystery shows on TV right now

MUSIC
FILM
STYLE



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NME

Hello...

IF YOU GOOGLE THE word ‘refugee’, what comes up isn’t ‘parasite, criminal and the likely cause of all of your problems’, but ‘a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster’.

The poisonous spaff being dribbled out by pricks like Nigel Farage and Donald Trump (views that are being legitimised in the mainstream by inglorious bastards like Piers Morgan and Paul Dacre) is turning vulnerable people into demons. It’s important in times like these to not only see through the lies and misdirection, but also do whatever you can – however small – to fight negativity with positivity.

Which is why at this week’s NME Awards we’ll be proud to give a platform to the newly pulled together indie supergroup Bands 4 Refugees as they raise money for the work being done by Help Refugees, a charity that funds projects in refugee camps in Greece, Paris, Turkey, Syria and Lebanon. Please watch their performance on NME.com or Facebook Live on February 15, and please give what you can. A quote from Dr. Seuss on the Help Refugees website says it all: “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

Big Sean p26

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Top chat with the mastermind of mind-bending Netflix smash *The OA*

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

Hello, stranger...

The trailer for *Stranger Things* series two aired at the Super Bowl and was almost as exciting as the epic sport. Here are the headlines

ELEVEN WILL BE BACK
We don't see much of Eleven – besides a blink-and-you'll-miss-it close-up of her face – but it confirms that she might be back in the show sooner than expected.

THE KIDS ARE ON THEIR BIKES AGAIN
They couldn't drop the bikes, could they? Dressed in their *Ghostbusters* outfits, we see what looks like Mike, Lucas and Dustin cycling pretty fast once again. But away from what?

THE KIDS ARE EMBRACING 1984
As reported, the new episodes are set in 1984 and the kids are seen embracing the phenomenon of the year in some tidy little *Ghostbusters* outfits.

HOPPER COULD BE IN TROUBLE
In another quick cut, we see beloved sheriff Jim Hopper caught up in what looks like an explosion – in a place that appears very similar to either the Byers' home or his own.

WILL'S STRUGGLING
Towards the end of the clip we see Will hooked up to several machines, being examined by various shady looking people. Is it because of his traumatic experience in series one? Or has he, perhaps, gained the same powers as Eleven?

THE NEW MONSTER
The show's creators said series two would be "bigger and darker" than the first – and judging by the monster, they're telling the truth. First we get a glimpse via a sketch. Then, during a lightning strike, the massive spider-like thing becomes visible. Consider us well and truly spooked.

***Stranger Things* series two arrives on October 31. Head to NME.com for updates until then**

VO5
NEW
MATT REWORK
FOR DRY AND DAMP
MATT FINISH
HOLD
Heat Protect
Spray
FOR ULTRA GLOSSY FINISH
230°C HEAT DEFENCE
200ml
Ultimate Hold
Hairspray
24HR WEATHERPROOF • UBER HOLD • EASY TO BRUSH OUT
HOLD
400mL/277g
Mega Hold
Gel Spray
FOR SMOOTH STYLES
24HR FRIZZ CONTROL
200ml
MEGA HOLD
STYLING GEL
24HR EXTRA STRONG CONTROL
INDESTRUCTIBLE LOOKS
HOLD
200ml
GIG READY HAIR
VO5
NME
AWARDS 2017
150mL/146g
RK PUTTY
MESSY TEXTURE
ALL DAY REWORKABLE HOLD
HOLD
EXTREME STYLE
VO5
MATT CLAY
75mL/85g
SCULPTED TEXTURE
CHOPPY MATT FINISH
HOLD
NEW
VO5
Express

Winter comes for Circa Waves

***Game Of Thrones*' Bran Stark is in the Liverpool band's new vid. Let them tell you all about it**

INTERVIEWS: ANDREW TRENDELL. PHOTOS: REX FEATURES

KIERAN SHUDALL

Circa Waves frontman

THE WHOLE BAND DIG *GAME OF THRONES*
"We all watch it. We all gather around the laptop and hold each other on the tour bus, hoping that no one else gets killed but secretly hoping that everyone does."

THE VID IS A THRILLER WITHIN A THRILLER
"We wanted to make a video where we're not playing, then the director came back with this concept of it being like old giallo horror movies, shot in the sort of '80s film style. The concept was a thriller within a thriller. I love anything that's shot on film."

THEY WANNA WORK WITH BILL MURRAY
"I'd love to do, like, a bank robbery video, but I don't have his number so I can't. I hope he's reading this…"

Circa Waves and Isaac Hempstead-Wright (centre) filming the 'Fire That Burns' vid

ISAAC HEMPSTEAD-WRIGHT

Bran Stark

IT ALL BEGAN ON TWITTER
"I saw them live and I've been a big fan ever since. Then I got a Twitter notification saying that Circa Waves had followed me, which was cool. Later on in the day a message popped up asking me to be in their music video. I was like, 'Why the hell not?'"

THE VID IS DARK, JUST LIKE THE TRACK
"It's central to the name and theme of the track about this fire burning within someone that may or may not be for the best. There's this dark undertone and it adds to the whole atmosphere. It's a really neat idea with this whole B-movie thing going on."

CIRCA WAVES COULD ROCK UP IN WINTERFELL SOON
"We've had Coldplay and Sigur Rós, so nothing is ever really out of the question."

HE WANTS TO WORK WITH THE LIBERTINES
"I've always been a massive Libertines fan. I went through a long period of being obsessed with Pete Doherty. They have such a great sound and they're so poetic."

Isaac as Bran Stark

'The Fire That Burns' is out now. New album 'Different Creatures' is out March 10

AGENDA

GOOD WEEK

RIHANNA
Shared the first pictures from *Ocean's Eight*, in which she stars.

THE CRIBS
A new art exhibition, held in their beloved hometown of Wakefield, will pay homage to the old fellas.

TRAVIS SCOTT
The rapper took an epic tumble off stage at Drake's show at The O2 in London.

KYLIE JENNER
She lost a legal battle with pop queen Kylie Minogue to trademark the name 'Kylie'. She should be so lucky…

BAD WEEK

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Return of the Mac

Indie's favourite slacker, Mac DeMarco, on the creation of third album 'This Old Dog'

INTERVIEW: LUKE MORGAN BRITTON. MINI INTERVIEW: RHIAN DALY. PHOTOS: COLEY BROWN, ED MILES

You moved to Los Angeles in the middle of making this album. How do you think that affected its creation?
"I guess it just made it take a little bit longer. A lot of people have been asking, 'Does it have that LA sound?' Maybe, I don't know. It's just like going from a bedroom in New York to a bedroom in LA."

There's that cliché of LA changing people. Have you found that to be true?
"Ah, that's a funny thing. The lifestyle is completely different here. But for me, I was already kinda living the LA lifestyle in New York, but without the sunshine. It just kind of feels like maybe there's some energy here right now, so I thought I'd check it out for a little while."

What are the main differences between previous album 'Salad Days' and 'This Old Dog'?
"I think it's a little more personal, about my family and the way my life is going right now. There's a lot of substance on it. I've been looking at things under a more mature microscope. Being alive is really crazy and the world is a really strange place."

And sonically?
"You know, you look at other bands and they'd say, 'Third album – got to switch it up and make a huge hit.' I don't want to do that weird third album, I just want to do the third album, and then I'll do the fourth. It's not like you have to go out and change. I guess that's why they call me the slacker."

'This Old Dog' is released on May 5

Yannis Philippakis

The Foals frontman's got a side project on the go

What have you been up to lately?
"I've been writing with Tony Allen, Fela Kuti's drummer. I started doing some tracks with him last year and then I was on tour. So I went back to finish them in Paris."

What was it like to work with such a legend?
"It was awesome. He's 76. He smokes hash all day. He drinks whiskey. He basically invented a genre with Fela Kuti. He's like an octopus on the drum kit – he's an incredible drummer."

What does this mean for Foals?
"It's been nice just to be creative. I really want to have a bit of a break before we start writing for Foals, so it's the perfect cross point. When I'm in my house and I'm not writing anything I start to go a bit mental."

“I wouldn’t waste my art on Trump”

As the seminal *Girls* comes to an end after six series, we catch up with creator Lena Dunham to reflect on 10 years of fearless telly

It’s the final series of *Girls* – what do you think the show’s legacy will be?
“Ask me in 10 years! No, I’ve been thinking about this a lot and I’d hope that one of the things it did was advance women towards a space where there’s no place that isn’t safe for them to go on TV.”

Is there anything else you feel was important?
“Yes, it was really important to us that everybody looked liked people. It was cool to have a cast where people’s teeth weren’t capped.”

***Girls* sparked conversation about female bodies...**
“Yes. And not just about my body. Jemima, Zosia, Allison – they’re by no means overweight but they don’t have obsessively worked-out bodies. Jemima had two kids during the course of the show and she let her body reflect that. She didn’t give a s**t if she was breast-feeding or had gained 20 pounds from having her baby or lost 20 from starting to work out again. And it wasn’t as though every man on the show had a perfect body either.”

The show’s known for its brutally honest sex scenes – was there one that spoke particularly strongly to you?
“The scene in season two, episode nine, between Adam Driver and Shiri Appleby, where he goes off the wagon as an alcoholic and becomes physically dominating and some might say violent. I found [it] particularly resonant because I think many women have had experiences of being in situations where we weren’t being assaulted but we felt uncomfortable with what was happening.”

You’ve talked in the past about feeling as though you have imposter syndrome...
“I still do sometimes. Some days I come to work and I’m like, ‘I know what I’m doing, I’m a killer,’ and some days I come to work and I’m like, ‘How did I end up here? Someone please come do this job for me, I want to go home.’ I think that’s something we all feel our whole lives. That feeling of standing in the too-big adult shoes.”

Having campaigned for Hillary Clinton, were you tempted to add references to her or Donald Trump into this season?
“Ha, no. The show’s always looked at the weight of expectations placed on women by society, but you’re definitely not going to see a Hillary Clinton/Donald Trump storyline. I wouldn’t waste my art on that guy.”

But in the opening episode of the new season you do have a joke about Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau...
“I have a huge crush on Justin Trudeau so I wrote a line into the script in the hope that he’ll see it and invite me to something.”

***Girls* returns to Sky Atlantic at 10pm on February 13**

Lessons we all learned from *Girls*

Five ways Lena Dunham’s show told it like it really is

SEX ISN'T ALWAYS GREAT
Girls’ unflinching sex scenes were all too real. In the show, sex was banal, brutal, awkward and steamy, often with one person ending up highly unsatisfied.

DRUGS AREN’T ALWAYS AWFUL
Girls didn’t speak down to its audience. Drugs were a fact of life, whether it was Lena Dunham’s Hannah doing cocaine ‘for work’ or the time Shoshanna accidentally smokes crack.

WORDS: SARAH HUGHES. PHOTOS: SKY ATLANTIC, REX FEATURES, GETTY IMAGES

Girls (l-r:) Shoshanna, Marnie, Hannah and Jessa

WORK IS HARD
Proof that you need drive as well as dreams, Hannah's attempts at becoming a freelance writer veered from the tragic to the hilarious. After a failed bash at a creative writing course, she found her calling as a teacher.

FRIENDSHIP RULES
The four women at the core of the show shared the ultimate love/hate relationship. For all the boys, art openings, pieces of experimental theatre and stints in rehab, *Girls* was a show about navigating relationships with your mates in the 21st century.

STYLE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT
Jessa's boho chic and Wu-Tang T-shirts, Shoshanna's quirky take on preppy style, Marnie's safe take on all-American girl-next-door glamour and Hannah's thing for hotpants – *Girls* was spot-on in its representation of the fast-changing fashion taste of modern twentysomethings.

Last W33K IN NUMBERS

10m
'Likes' for the Instagram post announcing Beyoncé's pregnancy, making it the most popular *ever*.

4
Years since *The Simpsons* depicted Lady Gaga flying above a stage, she did just that at the Super Bowl.

£140,000
Worth of jewellery stolen from Nicki Minaj's house. On the plus side, she's mates with Drake again.

£2.4m
Amount Johnny Depp paid to have author Hunter S. Thompson's ashes fired from a canon. Standard.

VO5 NME AWARDS 2017

Bands 4 Refugees to play the awards

Harry from Peace is putting together a band for a very special cause

LAST YEAR, A HANDFUL OF indie's finest gathered in dingy east London venue Kamio to play three shows of cheesy pop covers. The gigs, which featured members of The Vaccines, Peace, Slaves, Years & Years, Wolf Alice and more, weren't just a bit of pre-Christmas fun. As Bands 4 Refugees, they were raising money and awareness for Help Refugees, which is trying to tackle the refugee crisis in Europe. Bands 4 Refugees will unite once more at the VO5 NME Awards 2017 at London's O2 Academy Brixton on February 15. Peace frontman Harry Koisser has taken over the organising while Wolf Alice are in LA working on their second album. He told us about the future of the project and what to expect from the night.

You were a part of the covers nights in December. What was that like, and why did you get involved?

"It felt like there was a real collective consciousness – there are a lot of people in bands who want to be more active in helping out and making a change. We did something for Help Refugees with Paloma Faith [in 2015] so when I heard they were doing a covers night with Wolf Alice, I was like, 'I'm definitely getting involved.'"

Is bands speaking out about issues like this something that's missing from music right now?

"Yeah, everyone's been saying that. Obviously the state of the world has been getting more and more f**ked up over the last few years. It's like a pan – it simmers and then it hits boiling point and suddenly everyone's like, 'Now is the time we get involved.' [Bands 4 Refugees] is growing – there are more people getting involved."

So this is something that will continue beyond this performance?

"One hundred per cent. The opportunity to do something at the awards is really big. If we can pull in more people, hopefully that will be a catalyst for bigger artists with louder voices getting involved to shout about it. The refugee crisis isn't over. I worry that people might have forgotten that it's still going on, but it's worse and we need to get involved."

Harry Koisser will be joined by Olly from Years & Years, Izzy from Black Honey, Ozzy from Swim Deep and more

HOW DO I WATCH THE VO5 NME AWARDS 2017 LIVE?

Stream it via Facebook Live on facebook.com/NMEmagazine. Keep an eye on NME.com and our Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat for all the backstage craziness.

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The nominations The good and the great who are battling it out

BEST BRITISH BAND
Supported by ZIG-ZAG
Wolf Alice
The 1975
Bastille
Years & Years
The Last Shadow Puppets
Biffy Clyro

BEST BRITISH FEMALE ARTIST
Dua Lipa
Adele
Charli XCX
M.I.A.
Kate Tempest
PJ Harvey

BEST BRITISH MALE ARTIST
Supported by PILOT
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Zayn Malik
Kano
Jamie T
Michael Kiwanuka
Richard Ashcroft

BEST INTERNATIONAL BAND
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Kings Of Leon
Green Day
Metallica
A Tribe Called Quest
Tegan And Sara

BEST INTERNATIONAL FEMALE ARTIST
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Sia
Lady Gaga
Beyoncé
Solange
Christine & The Queens
Tove Lo

BEST INTERNATIONAL MALE ARTIST
Supported by VO5
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Drake
The Weeknd
Frank Ocean
Kendrick Lamar
Chance The Rapper

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Sunflower Bean
Christine & The Queens
Dua Lipa
Anderson .Paak

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Slaves
The 1975
Bring Me The Horizon
Christine & The Queens
Wolf Alice

BEST ALBUM
Supported by hmv
'The Life Of Pablo' **Kanye West**
'Konnichiwa' **Skepta**
'I Like It When You Sleep, For You Are So Beautiful Yet So Unaware Of It' **The 1975**
'A Moon Shaped Pool' **Radiohead**
'Wild World' **Bastille**
'Lemonade' **Beyoncé**

BEST TRACK
Supported by Mad Stripes
'Cool Girl' *Tove Lo*
'After The Afterparty' *Charli XCX feat. Lil Yachty*
'Man' *Skepta*
'Good Grief' *Bastille*
'Somebody Else' *The 1975*
'Tilted' *Christine & The Queens*

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Primavera
V Festival

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Black Mirror
Humans
People Just Do Nothing

NME PROMOTION

Win a guitar signed by Biffy Clyro

In partnership with PILOT

SINCE FORMING IN 1995, rock titans Biffy Clyro have worked tirelessly to become one of the biggest and best British bands in the game. They've headlined Reading & Leeds twice in the last four years and ended their run of gigs in 2016 with a massive arena tour, including a phenomenal show at London's The O2.

As a very, very special treat, last month the Kilmarnock boys returned to a venue that's positively tiny by their standards for the Nikon Presents the VO5 NME Awards 2017 Nominations Party. Performing at London's Omeara for just a few hundred lucky fans, they put on a special stripped-back set, featuring acoustic reworkings of some of their best tracks, like 'The Captain' and 'Mountains'.

If you weren't there, don't worry, because you can win a piece of the night to treasure forever. We grabbed Simon, Ben and James backstage before the show and asked them to use Pilot's new Permanent Marker 100 to scrawl their autographs on a guitar, which one lucky *NME* reader will win.

All you have to do to be in the running is answer this very easy question on the right. Good luck!

PHOTOS: ANDY HUGHES, JORDAN HUGHES, GETTY IMAGES

What is the name of Biffy Clyro's debut album?

A Midnight Sky
B Blackened Sky
C Cloudy Skies

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THIS WEEK

Dolly Parton is the hero America needs right now

Dolly would have Americans feeling the love

FIFTY YEARS AGO ON February 13, 1967, a smiling 21-year-old from the Tennessee backwaters released her debut album. 'Hello, I'm Dolly' announced the glorious arrival of Dolly Rebecca Parton to the world. A ferocious talent who grew up in dire poverty alongside her 11 siblings in a tiny two-room shack, she became – and remains – a powerful entertainment force, as well as a quietly but subversively political one.

Sure, there are the 43 albums, seven Grammys, global record sales of over 100 million, stints as an actress and author and even her own theme park, but she's also an LGBTQ icon and renowned philanthropist, putting money back into her beloved community and endorsing a whole host of charitable causes. Her theme park, Dollywood, isn't just a hillbilly Alton Towers; it was built to bring industry to the area she grew up in and create jobs in one of the poorest parts of the United States. Her Imagination Library project has helped to promote child literacy since 1995 by giving over a million free books to kids across the world.

She's often to be found calmly dishing out wisdom as well as her regular boob and barnet jokes, like last year when she spoke out against the transgender bathroom ban with grace and humour. "I don't judge people and I try not to get too caught up in the controversy of things," she said. "I hope that everybody gets a chance to be who and what they are. I just know if I have to pee, I'm gon' pee, wherever it's got to be." Quite.

"Now there's a new peroxide bimbo on the scene"

With a heart as big as her 'hive, Parton has achieved greatness through hard work, decency and warmth, unlike another American currently making headlines. She might have sung about being a 'Dumb Blonde' half a century ago on that debut album, but now there's a new peroxide bimbo on the scene. Both Dolly Parton and Donald Trump were born in 1946, but apart from their age and a shared taste in hair dye, they couldn't be more different. Parton is accepting, open and kind, where Trump is prejudiced, shut off and mean. In fact, Dolly Parton is just the kind of woman who should be in charge of America right now. Imagine how great that would be – think of the excessive public use of glitter, the mandatory cowboy boots and the love and respect that would shine out of the States.

Although Dolly didn't publicly endorse any political candidate for the 2016 US election (in fact, she said "I think they're both nuts" of Trump and Clinton), she did comment: "I personally think a woman would do a great job." Well, so do we – especially if her name was Dolly.

@leoniemaycooper

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VO5 NME AWARDS 2017

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THINGS WE LIKE

VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL

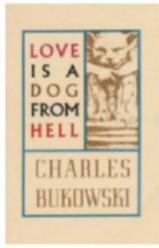
THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE

Perfect pinny
A Valentine's pinafore brings pop art punch to your wardrobe.
£70 ***lazyoaf.com***

Eye opener
Too Faced and Kat Von D's cosmetics collab features this heart-shaped eyeshadow kit.
£46 ***debenhams.com***

Edible emojis
Met on Tinder? Then celebrate your digital love with some emoji chocs.
£10 ***choconchoc.co.uk***

Heart strings
Pen an ode to your lover – or crush – on this cherry red Les Paul.
£699 ***gibson.com***



Bad romance
Charles Bukowski knows the score. His 1977 classic *Love Is A Dog From Hell* is raw AF.
£9.98 ***amazon.co.uk***

Think pink
Eden Mill's Love Gin uses rose petals to create a rather romantic spirit.
£29.95 ***31dover.com***

Modern love
There are nine different Bowie-themed Valentine's designs in this card pack.
£11.25 ***mlinehamart.com***

Satin chic
Not sure how you feel about V-Day? Then grab this Mixed Emotions satin bomber.
£120 ***shoptuesday.com***

Message on a bottle
Personalise a bottle of this whisky cocktail with a special message to your bae.
£40 ***etcheddrinks.com***

Light of your life
This neon light should bring a little love into your home.
£65 ***urbanoutfitters.com***

Pucker up
The Kiss lip gloss will prepare your pout for some seasonal snogging.
£5.95 ***lush.com***

Bag it
Wear your heart on your hip with this loved-up leather satchel.
£90 ***drmartens.com***

Heaven scent
Give the gift of smelling delish with this rose-scented Diptyque mini candle.
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Trucking on
Vans' neat heart-print trucker cap gives a casual nod to Cupid.
£25 ***vans.co.uk***

VO5 NME AWARDS 2017

£5.99
The 1975 - I like it when you sleep, for you are so beautiful yet so unaware of it

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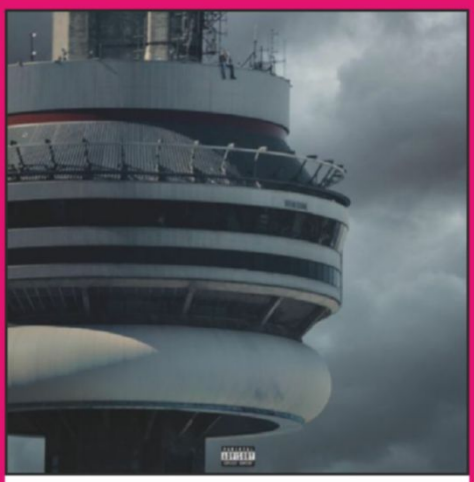

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Drake
Views

£7.99
Wiley
Godfather

£9.99
Christine And The Queens
Chaleur Humaine

hmv
home of entertainment
in-store | online

While stocks last. Prices apply to standard CD versions.

YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Shrewsbury

‹ SAM JEWELL
26, marketing

Listening to:
JO HARMAN
Worthy Of Love
"Beautiful soul, blues and gospel."

Wearing: Tommy Hilfiger coat, Howick jumper, Topman jeans and hat, ASOS boots, Risdon & Risdon bag.
Best thing about Shrewsbury: "It's great for independent food and shops."

"It's great for independent shops"

LEA LENDAKOVA ›
24, restaurant supervisor

Listening to:
DENNIS FERRER
The Red Room
"It reminds me of partying in Greece."

Wearing: ASOS coat, Zara jeans, River Island shoes.
Best thing about Shrewsbury: "Go to CSONS for lunch and get the salt beef focaccia."

‹ LOTTIE DORRICOTT
22, waitress

Listening to:
THE STONE ROSES
This Is The One
"I was at the Etihad Stadium gigs."

Wearing: Vice 84 hoodie, Marks & Spencer jeans.
Best thing about Shrewsbury: "Breakfast, lunch and dinner at Number Four restaurant."

PHOTOS: ANDY HUGHES

JAK WRIGHT ›
25, data analyst

Listening to:
J. COLE
4 Your Eyez Only
"The guy's got talent. He raps about real issues, not just girls and money."

Wearing: River Island jacket and boots, Hera London jeans, Topshop scarf.
Best thing about Shrewsbury: "House of the Rising Sun. The vibe is great and the food's unreal."

BRIT
DON'T

QUIT

After years of hard graft, Brit Marling has struck gold with *The OA*, the most talked-about TV show of the year so far. Charlotte Gunn catches up with the pioneering writer and actor to talk escapism and conquering "the Wild West of TV"

Brit as Prairie in *The OA*

BRIT MARLING – co-writer, executive producer and star of *The OA* – is currently experiencing what happens when you unleash a little magic into people's lives. "People approach me with a kind of *urgency* to talk about *The OA*," she says, on the phone from LA. "Largely, the sentiment has been so unusual and beautiful, whether it's them saying they cried at the ending or it blew their minds or that they're overwhelmed by it, there's a lot of passion and emotion that I haven't seen before."

On-the-street adulation is new for the 34-year-old, mostly known for her roles in independent films prior to *The OA*. A Netflix original series, it introduces the viewer to the world of Prairie, a missing blind girl who reappears after seven years with her sight restored. It has elements of '90s Nickelodeon favourite *Are You Afraid Of The Dark*, cult horror-fantasy *Pan's Labyrinth* and – crucially – more than a hint of *Stranger Things*. And it's the most addictive show since the Demogorgon was triumphantly struck down – the type that sees you delving into the depths of Reddit fan theories the moment it finishes.

A strong female lead is just one of the ways in which *The OA* invites comparisons with *Stranger Things*, the nostalgia-packed sci-fi smash that *NME* dubbed the TV highlight of 2016. That show's creators, the Duffer brothers, along with Marling and writing partner Zal Batmanglij – brother of Vampire Weekend's Rostam, who provides the theme tune – are among a new vanguard of young screenwriters pushing the boundaries of what television means in the age of streaming. "It's funny, because *The OA* isn't really a TV show," says Marling. "It's got basically nothing in common with TV other than it's longer than two hours. Writing is truly unfettered now. It feels like we're in the Wild West of storytelling again, and I have to credit the Duffer brothers in that too."

Do the *Stranger Things* comparisons get a little tiring? "No, I think it's an awesome example of the power of the collective unconscious," she says. "We're drawing from the same ether: young people making things around the same time from the same generation, feeling similar sentiments about the importance of friendship, or the idea of a young girl – an outsider – coming in with something to offer a group of boys. I don't think it's an accident that there's a convergence in themes. I think it's actually quite beautiful – it means we're all hunting around the same thing. The more people that are in that mix, the better."

For Marling, venturing behind the camera was a result of being frustrated with age-old Hollywood gender stereotyping. After coming to acting "super-late" (actually her mid-twenties) and working hard to secure a role – any role – to get some experience, she found herself on the LA audition circuit trying out for parts like "cute blonde" in a horror movie. It was then she took a moment to re-evaluate what it was that mattered to her. "I realised: gosh, even if I got any of these parts that I was desperate to get, they're all roles that I would feel somewhat ashamed to have done. If I later had a daughter, I wouldn't want her to see that representation of a woman – so what was I doing wanting to play one? At that point, I felt an imperative to write, and I don't know that I would have felt that as a young man. If you're part of a group that hasn't had as loud a voice, there's a sort of need to help eke out that voice."

Speaking to young women was

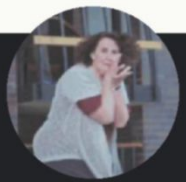
You got the moves

A series of magic movements are at the heart of *The OA*'s story. Want to have a go yourself? Here's how to reach the next dimension

STEP 1
Get your diamonds in the sky. Except don't, just push them out in front of you and toss your head back in total and utter abandon.

STEP 2
Bare your teeth like an angry cat, flip your Illuminati sign around and make a pair of grabby pincers with your hands. Wiggle your fingers. Hiss a bit.

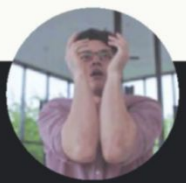
STEP 3
Make the charades sign for 'It's a song'. Except start with your hand shoved in your mouth. Simultaneously lollop about like a raggedy doll.



STEP 4
You're fielding in a cricket match but don't want a ball in the chops. Hold your hands up to your mouth ready to catch and hunch over while twisting, ready to shout "Out!"

STEP 5
This one's a bit MJ. Stand up straight. A look to the right; a look to the left; arms outstretched and palms downward in time.

STEP 6
Raise your arms and double fist-bump your chest like a college bro. Then hold them out to the side, jumbo jet-style.



STEP 7
Press your arms together in prayer. Look to the sky. Open your hands out like a beautiful, blooming flower. Jelly legs take over. Wobble to the floor.

an important part of the writing process for Marling, who spent time visiting schools and talking to pupils about their view of the world. Connecting with that generation, growing up in an uncertain world, proved an eye-opening experience. "I think the most surprising thing was just the amount of pain I saw – it just felt like a crisis," she says. "It didn't feel like the classic coming-of-age troubles I had when I was at school, and I think a huge part of it is technology. If I got picked on, I could go home and I'd have friends and family outside of school, but these kids are on social media 24/7 and it's such a literal accounting of popularity that the oppression is out of control. You feel the kids snapping under the weight of it. It felt to me that they were really overwhelmed and there was a great feeling of yearning for a way out."

Escapism and disenfranchisement are at the core of *The OA*'s story. A transgender teen, a lonely school teacher, a misunderstood troublemaker and a straight-A student with an alcoholic mother come together to find their voice and purpose in a world that's cast them out. It builds up to one of the most controversial TV finales we've seen in some time – and one that has left fans desperate to know if there'll be a second series. "If we wrapped everything up in a neat little bow, we wouldn't get to keep telling the story and we'd very much like to keep telling the story," Marling teases. "I hope we do [get another series], but I don't know for sure yet."

For now, Marling's taking some time out, still considering the impact of creating a world visited by millions across the globe, particularly in today's climate. The political reality of 2017 is something that's weighing heavily on her mind given the fact that literally while we're speaking, Donald Trump's inauguration is happening in Washington DC. "I've noticed something happening recently," she says. "Strangers are getting together in rooms more, sharing ideas and telling each other about ways they can get involved in their local community. That's at the heart of this show. When you strip it all away, it's really about people in trauma healing each other by talking, listening and making profound friendships they didn't think were possible. The American Dream has unravelled, but by just showing up and getting together, that's what will make a change. If we don't, nothing is going to move forward." NME

Strange but true

Five things *Stranger Things* and *The OA* have in common

A girl befriends a group of strangers

No one knows where she's from

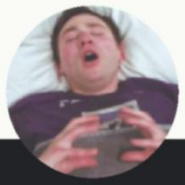
The girl has unexplained powers

But they make her nose bleed

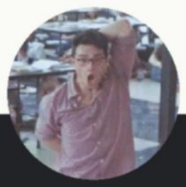
In the end, it's about friendship

With Jason Isaacs as Hap

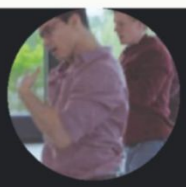
> "*The OA* is about people healing"



STEP 8
You went to your nan's on the weekend. She made a massive Swiss roll. Illustrate its size to your friends, keeping them in suspense by slowly widening your hands to demonstrate just what a huge, cylindrical cake it was.



STEP 9
The reverse Vogue. Channel Madonna, but bust those angular moves behind your head. Oh, and make an 'ooh, aaah' noise with your mouth, because you don't look weird enough already.



STEP 10
Imagine your heart's on the right side of your body. Convulse like it just beat right through your chest and you're pulling it out with miniature puppet strings.

STEP 11
You swallow an apple whole. As it hits your chest, you let one off. To avoid embarrassment, you wave the stench away quickly with a quick fan of your left hand.

STEP 12
Do your best gorilla impression, jumping backwards with both feet in sync.

STEP 13
Make a V sign, covering your eyeballs, with your left hand. Put your right hand across your left. Step forward menacingly.

STEP 14
Slowly pull down the V with your right hand. Act like you snuck a crisp in there when your teacher wasn't looking. Pull your sex face. Prepare to reach another plane.

PHOTOS: BEN MORRIS/TRUNKARCHIVE.COM

TV TO GET YOUR TEETH INTO

Like *Stranger Things* and *The OA*? Here are 10 more mind-bending mystery series you can watch *right now*

1 The Leftovers

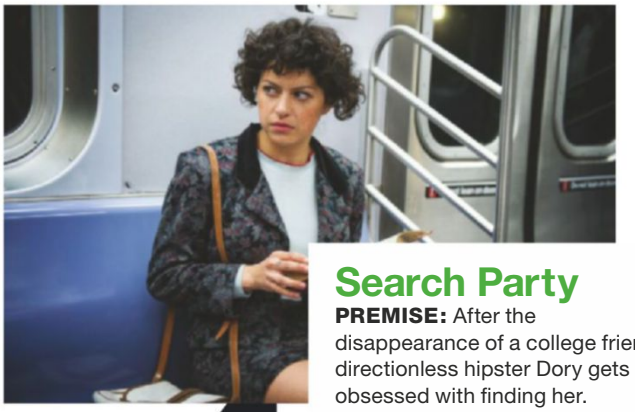
PREMISE: Years after the disappearance of two per cent of the world's population, a small US community continues to struggle with the after-effects.
WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH: The unresolved mystery makes tensions compellingly fraught. It's an HBO show, so think *The Wire*, *Game Of Thrones*.
STATUS: Began in 2014; the third and final season arrives in April.
WATCH ON: Amazon Video

2 Lost

PREMISE: Plane crash survivors investigate the seemingly sentient island they're stranded on.
WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH: The most talked-about TV show of the noughties, *Lost* was as brilliant as it was baffling.
STATUS: Ran for six seasons from 2004 to 2010.
WATCH ON: Amazon Video

3 Sense8

PREMISE: Eight telepathically connected people share thoughts and skills, but face persecution from a mysterious threat.
WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH: Created by the Wachowskis (*The Matrix*, *Cloud Atlas*) it's a huge, beautiful and progressive show with a mad premise.
STATUS: Began in June 2015 and season 2 arrives in May.
WATCH ON: Netflix



4 Search Party

PREMISE: After the disappearance of a college friend, directionless hipster Dory gets obsessed with finding her.
WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH: For its post-*Girls* humour, NYC setting and massive plot twists. And because *Arrested Development*'s Alia Shawkat (Maeby Fünke) stars.
STATUS: First aired in November 2016, recently renewed for a second season.
WATCH ON: All 4

6 The X-Files

PREMISE: FBI agents Mulder and Scully investigate freaky supernatural cases.
WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH: The theme tune, the relationship between superstitious Mulder (David Duchovny) and cynical Scully (Gillian Anderson), and the out-there plots.
STATUS: After 14 years, it returned for a 10th season in 2016.
WATCH ON: Amazon Video

5 Orphan Black

PREMISE: A con artist discovers she's one of multiple clones, all of whose lives are in danger.
WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH: Sure, it explores the ethics of human cloning, but mainly it's Tatiana Maslany's performance that makes it so great. She won an Emmy for it last year.
STATUS: The fifth and final season is due in April.
WATCH ON: Netflix

7 Fargo

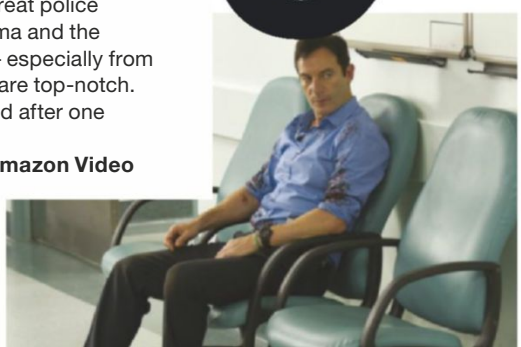
PREMISE: Based around the Coen brothers film, this anthology series mixes organised crime and mystical philosophy with super-cute North Dakota accents.
WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH: The last two seasons have been about good people doing terrible things, turning domestic tedium into a taut thriller with significant supernatural elements.
STATUS: Season 3 is due in 2017.
WATCH ON: Netflix, Amazon Video

8 Les Revenants (The Returned)

PREMISE: In an isolated French town, dead people return, seemingly alive and well, to their community.
WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH: This dark fantasy world is so elegant and intoxicating it makes its hulking undead peer *The Walking Dead* look like goofball comedy *Shaun Of The Dead.*
STATUS: Began in 2012, ended after two seasons. Don't bother with the second.
WATCH ON: Netflix, Amazon Video

9 Awake

PREMISE: In one reality Michael Britten's wife survived a tragic car accident; in the other his son did. But which reality is, erm, real?
WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH: As well as its central mystery, this show's also a great police procedural drama and the performances – especially from Jason Isaacs – are top-notch.
STATUS: Ended after one season in 2012.
WATCH ON: Amazon Video



Mr. Robot

PREMISE: Cybersecurity expert Elliot Alderson leads a double life as a hacker, working to destroy a conglomerate he calls Evil Corp.
WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH: Rami Malek's dour portrayal of Alderson will have you questioning if any of what he tells you is real.
STATUS: Season 3 is due in summer 2017.
WATCH ON: Amazon Video

10

Three upcoming mysteries to watch out for

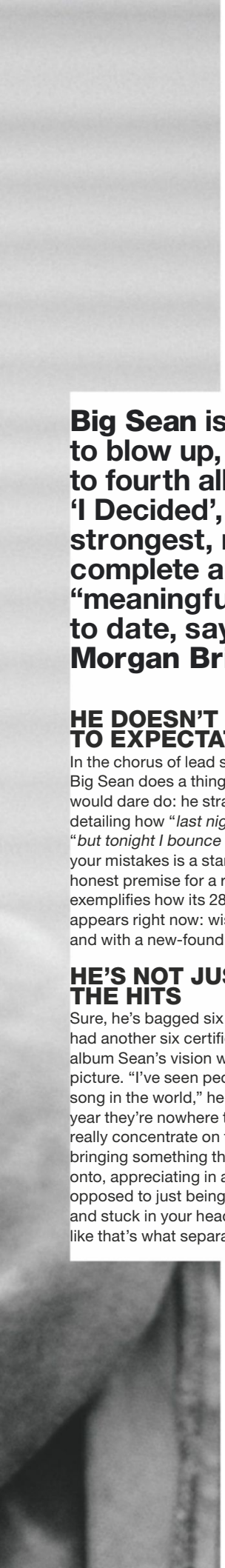
STRANGER THINGS 2
What it is: Hit '80s nostalgia trip about monsters and evil scientists.
When it airs: October 31, on Netflix.
What we know so far: Sean Astin (*Lord Of The Rings*) is joining the cast. The show's creators say season 2 is about "the struggle to regain normalcy, and maybe the impossibility of it."

TWIN PEAKS
What it is: Seminal, surreal murder mystery revived for a third season after 26 years.
When it airs: May 22, on Sky Atlantic.
What we know so far: Joining the cast are *Jurassic Park*'s Laura Dern and *Scott Pilgrim* himself, Michael Cera.

DARK
What it is: Supernatural saga about two missing children in a German town, set in the present and in 1986.
When it airs: 2017 on Netflix.
What we know so far: It's the first Netflix Original from Germany and is made by the producers of the Oscar-winning *The Lives Of Others.*

NME

carhartt
BIG
DEAL



Big Sean is about to blow up, thanks to fourth album 'I Decided', his strongest, most complete and "meaningful" work to date, says Luke Morgan Britton

HE DOESN'T CONFORM TO EXPECTATIONS

In the chorus of lead single 'Bounce Back', Big Sean does a thing not many rappers would dare do: he straight-up admits defeat, detailing how "*last night I took an L*" (a loss), "*but tonight I bounce back*". Learning from your mistakes is a stark and unusually honest premise for a rap hit, but it perfectly exemplifies how its 28-year-old author appears right now: wiser, more self-assured and with a new-found sense of purpose.

HE'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE HITS

Sure, he's bagged six platinum singles and had another six certified gold, but on this album Sean's vision was about the bigger picture. "I've seen people have the biggest song in the world," he says, "and then next year they're nowhere to be found. So I don't really concentrate on that. I focus on just bringing something that people can hold onto, appreciating in a different way, as opposed to just being massive on the radio and stuck in your head." Sean adds: "I feel like that's what separates good from great."

HIS ALBUM'S CONCEPT IS PRETTY PROFOUND

He describes the album as being a "rebirth" and about "second chances", with its cover art depicting a young and old Sean. He explains: "The album is broken up into four sections – four acts, if you will. It's about the mentality of going through life and failing at everything, and then at the end of your life somehow being able to go back and do it all right, with the intuition and the wisdom of your older self. Sometimes you would do the same things twice, sometimes you would make different decisions, but I think in 2017 we need that mentality."

HE GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

The rapper's Sean Anderson Foundation helps local Detroit kids and he recently raised $100k for the nearby Flint water crisis. Does he feel a responsibility to give back? "Yeah, it's kind of second nature for me to care about where I'm from. I guess it's the way I was raised. My grandma would always donate, and that's stuck with me. And I feel like that's not just with money, but with time, with happiness, with inspiration. All these things that can help change somebody's life. It's how I've always looked at things."

HE'S PROUD OF WHERE HE'S FROM

Detroit has a rich musical history, from Motown to Eminem, and Sean argues that the sense of strife often associated with the city is what spurs people on. "I see why Detroit has a bad reputation, especially when I was growing up. It was dangerous. I'm not saying it's not a dangerous place anymore either, but what I'm seeing is that the renaissance of Detroit is happening right now. Detroit is so special – we've been through the best, we've been through the worst as a city. But on top of that, when you go through those type of things, I think it breeds a certain type of person. I think it's the underlying spirit of something in Detroit that's just creative and I'm just happy to be adding, you know, what I can bring to the table for the city of Detroit musically, and anywhere else I can."

HE'S RECONNECTED WITH HIS OLD PAL EMINEM

"Me and him did a song together previously called 'Detroit Vs Everybody', which was a major moment for me," says Sean. "When we were in the studio working on that, it was cool to see how much he respected me back. Obviously I respect him as one of the greatest to ever do this. I mean, Eminem is the biggest rapper of all time. I remember reaching out to him [for new track 'No Favors'], knowing that he was really busy. He really appreciated me reaching out and told me that I was one of the most dangerous MCs. We played the album in London and I didn't say Eminem was on that song – I just played it. So everyone was like, 'Oh s**t!' You know, it was definitely a surprise."

KANYE IS STILL A SUPPORTER

West appears only once on the album, contributing backing vocals to 'Bounce Back', and takes more of a backseat role this time around as executive producer. He doesn't need his "hand held", Sean says, but even the smallest of inputs from Kanye can be strongly felt. "I feel like he trusts me creatively to know that I can be an artist on my own. The advice he gives is great and the suggestions that he brings to the table I always consider. Sometimes I take his advice, sometimes I don't. That's with anybody. But the advice he does give is usually pretty right."

HE'S GOT SOME ON-POINT TRUMP MATERIAL

On 'No Favors', Eminem describes Donald Trump as a "b***h", while Big Sean himself played a Hillary Clinton campaign concert late last year. So what does he think of the President's controversial first few weeks in office? "To keep it honest, it's crazy just to see what's going on," he says. "That's one of the reasons why I wanted to deliver this album with this sentiment, because it's really about being the best version of yourself. With all the craziness, if you're not in tip-top shape there's no way to survive. I feel that's very important for people in these moments where Donald Trump is President."

Big, bigger, biggest

Ranking the 'Big' rappers

#4 BIG KRIT
Recently parted ways with Def Jam after two albums. He has a way to go to reach the levels of former label-mate Sean.

#3 BIG BOI
One half of Outkast, a solo artist in his own right and owner of a successful dog-breeding business in Atlanta. Now that's what you call multitalented.

#2 BIG SEAN
He was recently handed a Roc-A-Fella chain by Jay Z. How many of the others can say that?

#1 NOTORIOUS BIG
Sorry Sean, but there was no way you were ever going to top this list. Biggie is the sole reason for that.

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

CABBAGE

RORY WYNNE

THU 16 MAR KEELE UNIVE SOLD OUT LLROOM
FRI 17 MAR LIV SOLD OUT LYMPIA
SAT 18 MAR SOLD OUT N DOME
MON 20 MAR LINC SOLD OUT E SHED
TUE 21 MAR EXETER LEMON GROVE
THU 23 MAR LOND SOLD OUT OHOUSE
FRI 24 MAR BRIS SOLD OUT ACADEMY

SAT 25 MAR CARDIFF SOLD OUT ED
MON 27 MAR NORWICH THE NICK RAYNS LCR UEA
WED 29 MAR BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY
THU 30 MAR LEEDS C SOLD OUT MY
FRI 31 MAR NEWCAS SOLD OUT CADEMY
SAT 01 APR GLASGO SOLD OUT DEMY

NME.COM/TICKETS | GIGSANDTOURS.COM | TICKETMASTER.CO.UK

AN S.J.M. CONCERTS & DF PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH 13 ARTISTS

PHOTO: JENN FIVE

VO5 Austin TOPMAN Nikon ZIG-ZAG PILOT Red Stripe hmv

RADAR

MUSIC, FILM, TV & MORE – THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

Best NEW tracks
And when to drop them

STORMZY

BEST FOR HITTING THE GYM
FUTURE ISLANDS
Ran
The cult Baltimore band do their propulsive, up-tempo thing to perfection on this comeback single. Put it on your workout playlist and you'll be a cert for the 2020 Olympics.

BEST FOR NOT GOING TO BED
TEENGIRL FANTASY
Star-Rise
This is the kind of lilting, luscious electronica that's best listened to when you're feeling fragile but still want to know where the party's at.

BEST FOR ROCKING OUT
MASTODON
Show Yourself
The US metallers' upcoming seventh album 'Emperor Of Sand' is all about mortality and will feature this heavy but nicely melodic riff-fest.

BEST FOR SERIOUS DANCING
LIV DAWSON
Searching
Produced by Disclosure, this deep disco tune comes from one of 2017's most interesting young vocalists, British teenager Liv.

BEST FOR CHILLING
MAC DEMARCO
This Old Dog
The title track of the slacker king's next album – out in May – is a super-relaxed, finger-picking delight. The very definition of laid-back.

BEST FOR BEING THE BEST
STORMZY
Big For Your Boots
The first track from his long-awaited debut album, this sees the Croydon grime MC slaying the competition with humour, style and ballsy bars, shouting out to everyone from Adele to his mum.

BEST FOR GETTING WEIRD
SUMMER MOON
Happenin'
Nikolai Fraiture from The Strokes' *other* band. This bass-and-drums-heavy psych rocker sounds like something found in the back of Tame Impala's garage.

BEST FOR 1970S TIME-TRAVEL
BNQT
Restart
A supergroup featuring members of Franz Ferdinand, Midlake, Grandaddy and Band Of Horses, this is a decidedly beardy offering, all vintage synths and groovy guitars.

BEST FOR TENDER MOMENTS
JARVIS COCKER & CHILLY GONZALES
Tearjerker
Any song that features the line *"You don't need a girlfriend / You need a social worker"* is in our good books. This collaboration between the Pulp legend and piano man Gonzales is as pretty as it is witty.

BEST FOR GETTING POLITICAL
DEPECHE MODE
Where's The Revolution
Electro-goth forefathers Depeche Mode tackle the world's ills on this heavy, heady tune.

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Junkyard blues

Rory Graham's debut album is at once modern and classic, fusing blues, hip-hop and vintage sounds with a pop attitude

RAG'N'BONE MAN
Human
★★★★☆
BLUES TATTOOS VINTAGE

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

RORY GRAHAM HAS BEEN honing his craft for 15 years, from his teens as rapper Rag'n'Bonez in his native Uckfield to open mic hero in nearby Brighton, where he began busting out one of the strongest modern blues vocals to ever shake the south coast.

That it's taken him this long to release his debut seems strange, but in many ways Graham's story is similar to that of Paloma Faith – another homegrown talent who spent a decade knocking about with a 1950s-styled garage covers band, the Penetrators, before breaking through into megastardom. Although it took Faith a few albums to be noticed by the Brit Awards voting panel, Rag'n'Bone Man has already scored his first gong, the 2017 Critics Choice Award, following in the footsteps of James Bay, Sam Smith and Jack Garratt.

'Human' references all three artists, from the sleek pop nous of Smith and the vintage nods of Bay to the experimental looping of Garratt. The heady title track melds all three, mixing up beats, blues and moody production, but it's the brute force of his vocals that carries the record.

When it comes to big, belting choruses backed with equally sizeable orchestration, Graham doesn't muck about. 'Grace' brings Memphis majesty into the mix and 'Arrow' smacks of Amy Winehouse at her sassiest, while 'Be The Man' has the easiness of an Ed Sheeran melody. 'Die Easy', a fully a capella track, is full of Delta Blues clichés that seem out of kilter with a guy from East Sussex, but Graham's powerful voice just about manages to override the irony.

Leonie Cooper

FOR FANS OF

Drive time

London duo want you to "have faith" in their debut album of heart-on-sleeve lyrics and soft rock tunes

TEN FÉ
Hit The Light
★★★☆☆
SOFT ROCK EMOTIONS

FOLLOWING THE RAMPANT success of The 1975, it's natural that other bands will follow in their wake. London duo Ten Fé, named after the Spanish for "have faith", are front of the queue.

Recorded in Berlin, Ben Moorhouse and Leo Duncan's debut has one eye on the radio-friendly soft rock of The 1975, the other on the on-the-road rock of cult US group The War On Drugs. And generally, it works. Sure, there are tracks on this wistful collection of electronic rock 'n' roll that sound like drive-time classics, ripe for a *Top Gear* compilation pressed for Father's Day. On occasion, though, the album hits a sumptuous sweet spot between the rugged emotion of Bruce Springsteen, the synthy swirl of Jagwar Ma and the lightness of The Cure.

Take standout song 'Elodie', with its rolling piano refrain, sighed backing vocals and yearning lyrics such as, *"The feeling has gone / I know I'm no longer the one"*. Those opening piano notes are irresistible, new yet familiar, as fragile as the bruised ego that the words convey. Elsewhere, 'Twist Your Arm' is an electronic banger, all pounding percussion and lilting slide guitar, before it contracts into a hand-clapped campfire singalong. By the time it's back into its full-blooded, full-bodied chorus, you could be convinced that this intermittently thrilling album has come to offer you nothing short of salvation.

Yet the next track, 'Another Way', sounds like The 1975 but with the louche sex appeal and clever-clogs wordplay dialled down. A combination of washed-out keys and slinky guitar, it could be described as an anaemic cousin to 'Paris' by Matt Healy and pals. 'In The Air' sees Ten Fé claim that they're *"not through with love / But through the pain"*, the kind of earnest statement that's rife throughout the record.

If the band suffer from anything, it's being too serious for their own good, but the sheer propulsive nature of the majority of the record makes it undeniably attractive. Their melodies are catchy as hell. You might not have heard of Ten Fé yet, but once you hear one of their better tracks, it'll be hard to shake from your skull. **Jordan Bassett**

Ten Fé (l-r): Leo Duncan and Ben Moorhouse

PHOTOS: PEROU, IMOGEN LOVE

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Ten Fé have recorded a cover of 'Born Slippy' by Underworld. The song choice was suggested to them by a stranger in a bar in Hamburg.

The dork knight

The beloved brick brand pokes fun at superheroes

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE
U *Will Arnett, Rosario Dawson, Michael Cera, Ralph Fiennes*
★★★★☆
GAGS | LESSONS | META FUN

YOU HAVE TO GO BACK about 20 years – to the George Clooney days – to find a live-action Batman that isn't sociopathically macho. Recent portrayals have refused to let the orphan-turned-superhero be anything but dark, stormy and brooding. *The Lego Batman Movie*, on the other hand, finds fun in the idea of a grown man fighting crime in a cape.

Our story begins with Batman (*Arrested Development*'s Will Arnett) single-handedly saving Gotham City for the umpteenth time and relishing the shallow love it earns him from its citizens. But new commissioner Barbara Gordon (Rosario Dawson) decides the city's reliance on him is unhealthy and cleans up the streets. This forces Batman – an incorrigible loner, prone to working out in the gym as a way of escaping his emotional problems – to spend his time with his accidentally adopted son Dick (Michael Cera) and butler Alfred (Ralph Fiennes), until a new threat emerges to bring the lot of them together.

If you wanted, you could read *The Lego Batman Movie* as a parable about the importance of unity in a divided America – or a blockbuster about mental health, in the same way that 2015's *Inside Out* was – but it'll make you laugh so much that you'll barely notice any kind of message being hammered home. The torrent of gags commences in the opening credits, with a nudge-nudge voiceover from our gravel-throated Batman. It's a similar start to *Deadpool*, and this film channels the self-aware humour of that 2016 Marvel smash throughout. Many of the LOLs will sail over kids' heads – a triumphant "I did something!" from rubbish villain Killer Croc; a cheeky dig at last year's much-criticised *Batman Vs Superman* – but there's plenty here for younger audiences too, thanks mostly to the enjoyable childishness of Lego's Batman.

Perhaps *The Lego Batman Movie* should come with a warning, because it'll be near-impossible for viewers to take Ben Affleck's Batman seriously as he scowls his way through the forthcoming *Justice League* after this. **Larry Bartleet**

PHOTOS: REX FEATURES

Michael Keaton as Ray Kroc, the man who made McDonald's massive

Fast food for thought

A darkly humorous look at the history of McDonald's, with Michael Keaton playing a small-time businessman with a big-time dream

THE FOUNDER
12A *Michael Keaton, Nick Offerman, John Carroll Lynch*

★★★☆☆

BIG MACS | BIG DREAMS | BIOPIC

WE'VE LONG KNOWN THE story of how McDonald's burgers are made, thanks to documentaries like *Fast Food Nation*. This jaunty biopic tells how McDonald's itself was made. As with the food, the recipe here is one that includes making mincemeat of the unsuspecting, a lot of cheap cuts and more than a little unappetising crap.

When we first find Ray Kroc (Michael Keaton), in the 1950s, he's trying to sell milkshake makers to restaurants, mostly unsuccessfully. He's a quick-talking, eager, mildly tragic grafter. Kroc has the ambitions of a big-time businessman, yet none of the ideas. His life is comfortable but he always wants more. So he does what anyone in pursuit of the American Dream does if they don't have a billion-dollar idea of their own: he takes someone else's.

When one restaurant, McDonald's, orders several of his machines, Kroc goes to find out why they're so busy and discovers a restaurant that's reinvented fast food. And he wants in. Although credited as the man who started McDonald's, Kroc actually just sneakily wrestled it from Dick and Mac McDonald (Nick Offerman, John Carroll Lynch), taking something small and wholesome and cheapening it for the masses.

Robert D. Siegel's script, directed with a big smile and a dark sense of humour by John Lee Hancock, chooses the more interesting side of this story. The McDonald brothers' tale of being bullied out of their own business might have been the obvious centre to the story, with Kroc as the villain, but by choosing Kroc as the protagonist the film gives itself more to play with.

Keaton is perfect for the role, his natural devilish charm making Kroc not a bad guy but someone who sees potential in an idea and knows how to make it better but doesn't know when to stop. Kroc becomes rich beyond all his dreams, but he can never feel sated. In *The Founder*'s telling, the man who sold the world on the idea that instant gratification was everything never got any of his own, no matter how long he waited.

Olly Richards

FOR FANS OF

Under the RADAR

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

Rhodri wears:
T-shirt, Topman, £16
Jeans, Topman, £30
Boots, Dr Martens, £120
VO5 Ultimate Hold Hairspray, £3.62

Tali wears
Top, Toga Pulla at Harvey Nichols, £705
Jeans, Topman, £30
Shoes, Topshop, £72
VO5 Miracle Illuminator, £4.39

Estrons (l-r): Steff, Rhodri, Tali, Toby

Steff wears:
Jacket, AllSaints, £345
T-shirt, Levi's, £65
VO5 Dry Texturising Spray, £4.39

Toby wears:
Shirt, Topman, £20
Jeans, Topman, £30
Boots, Dr Martens, £115
VO5 ReWork Spray, £4.39

Estrons

Fiery and empowering Slaves-endorsed 'heavy pop' from West Wales

"IT'S LAZY JOURNALISM to call us a punk band," says Estrons singer Tali Källström, long before *NME* has got its slack arse in gear to call them anything at all. "I'd call us a heavy pop band." If you've heard their empowering songs of sexual dominance and male ego deflation, seen their breast-feeding artwork or caught a shoe in the face at one of their gigs (rubs arm bruise), you'll know that 'heavy pop' band Estrons thrive on confrontation, on hacking away at the cultural guy ropes, upending stereotypes and finding wonder in life's clashes.

Their bio reads like a rock agitator's handbook. Welsh-Canadian Källström met guitarist Rhodri Daniel on an Aberystwyth beach in 2013, and together they conceived Estrons (Welsh for 'misfit') as a revolving collective of oddball strangers representing the multi-language West Wales melting pot. Daniel came up with their garage-pop 2015 breakout song 'Make A Man' while standing between two sound-clashing rooms in a Berlin nightclub; Källström wrote the lusty lyrics as an attempt to bring the forthright sexuality of female rappers like Missy Elliott into the rock sphere. Last summer's single 'Drop' was conceived in a police cell and, having gone through a break-up the afternoon before their first gig outside of Cardiff, Källström had a minor shoe-based meltdown onstage. "I drank five shots of tequila one after another and cried onstage," she admits. "I took off my shoes and threw them into the crowd. My fiery personality when things go wrong – you can hear a lot of that in Estrons' music."

With Källström's impetuosity and sprawling love of every genre from rap to opera clashing with Daniel's "militant, logical and scientific" approach, causing heated but constructive arguments, it took several years, relentless touring (including a stint with Slaves) and about 12 fleeting members for Estrons to find a fixed line-up and a definitive sound. "I didn't want to be another rock band that looked and sounded like something else that had existed before," Källström insists. "These bands must be lying when they say, 'We all just met and it was all fine and we liked the same music and now we write this.'" Estrons, then: where misfits finally click. **Mark Beaumont**

PHOTOS BY ZOE MCCONNELL
STYLED BY KYLIE GRIFFITHS
HAIR STYLED BY VO5

Steff wears:
T-shirt, Topman, £16
Jeans, Topman, £30
Boots, Dr Martens, £120
VO5 Dry Texturising Spray, £4.39

Rhodri wears:
Jacket, Topman, £35
T-shirt, Topman, £16
Jeans, Topman, £30
VO5 Matt Clay, £4.39

Toby wears:
Top, Topman, £15
Jeans, Topman, £30
Boots, Dr Martens, £115
VO5 ReWork Putty, £4.39

Tali wears:
Top, Urban Oufitters, £39
Jeans, Topman, £40
Shoes, Topshop, £72
VO5 Miracle Illuminator, £4.39

MAKE-UP: JOHANNA DALEMO USING MAC COSMETICS

FOR FANS OF STRANGE BUT TRUE

Their self-released debut EP 'Whoever She Was', which featured a cover shot of Tali breast-feeding her newborn child, became a "secret EP" when all existing copies were stolen in Tunbridge Wells.

LIKE THIS? TRY THIS!

HONEYBLOOD
'Honeyblood'
As with Estrons, no s**t is taken from the bulls**t artists swarming Stina Tweeddale on the debut album from this rock band.

Best track

I'M NOT YOUR GIRL
Estrons' latest single is an itchy hip-hop squall tackling possessive, egotistical boyfriends. "It's about bringing down egos and that sense of ownership," says Tali.

Tali wears:
Jacket, AllSaints, £575
T-shirt, Obey, £30
VO5 Ultimate Hold Hairspray, £3.62

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THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS

Going Gaga

The Joanne world tour will bring killer tunes and countless costume changes to three UK stadiums

THE SEVEN MOST-WATCHED TV broadcasts in US history have all been the Super Bowl. The event's enormous viewership hasn't dipped below the 100 million mark since 2010, and it was here, straight after her theatrical half-time extravaganza, that Lady Gaga announced her Joanne world tour last Sunday.

For this year's Super Bowl half-time show she put on an iconic spectacle, but unlike almost every actor so far this awards season, Gaga didn't use her platform to talk politics directly, instead boshing out a 13-minute medley of stone-cold hits such as 'Born This Way' and 'Bad Romance' alongside choreography and costume changes that channelled both the post-apocalyptic heft of *Mad Max* and the showy glitz of *Cabaret*.

Here are just three of the brilliant things that went down: she got illuminated drones to form the American flag behind her; she got an actual human man to hold her mic for her while she played keytar; she flew, flying-squirrel-style, through the air on a wire. Sure, her recent fourth album 'Joanne' might have suggested that things are going to get more low-key, but that doesn't mean her stadium performances will be anything less than utterly watchable. The Super Bowl was more than enough proof enough of that.

PHOTO: REX FEATURES

ON SALE NOW

LADY GAGA
She's pretty famous, yeah?

OCTOBER
Mon 9 The O2, London
Sun 15 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham
Tue 17 Arena, Manchester

TICKETS: £55, on sale 9am, February 10

SUPERFOOD

Brummie indie band prepped for glory

MARCH
Fri 17 O2 Academy, Oxford
Sat 18 Leadmill, Sheffield
Sun 19 King Tut's, Glasgow
Mon 20 Sound Control, Manchester
Tue 21 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Wed 22 The Welly Club, Hull
Thu 23 Think Tank?, Newcastle
Fri 24 Arts Club, Liverpool
Sat 25 Sugarmill, Stoke
Mon 27 O2 Academy, Birmingham
Tue 28 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham
Wed 29 The Haunt, Brighton
Thu 30 Thekla, Bristol
Fri 31 The Dome, London
APRIL
Sat 1 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff
Mon 3 Oh Yeah, Belfast

TELL ME MORE: These labelmates of The 1975 have injected tons of synth into the mix for their new single 'Double Dutch' – more curveballs await at these gigs.
TICKETS: £10-£13.20

JORJA SMITH

Teenage BBC Sound Of 2017 runner-up

APRIL
Sat 01 O2 Academy, Birmingham
Sun 02 Haunt, Brighton
Mon 03 Village Underground, London
Wed 05 Belgrave Music Hall, Leeds
Thu 06 King Tut's, Glasgow
Fri 07 Gorilla, Manchester

TELL ME MORE: Drake and Stormzy are fans of this laconic soul singer from the West Midlands, who sampled 17th century composer Henry Purcell on her 2016 track 'A Prince'.
TICKETS: £11.55-£11.81

THE VIEW

Scottish indie stalwarts

MAY
Thu 4 Barrowlands, Glasgow
Fri 5 & Sat 6 Garage, Aberdeen
Sun 7 & Mon 8 Ruby Lounge, Manchester
Wed 10 The Garage, London
Fri 12 Tramshed, Cardiff
Sat 13 Hangar34, Liverpool
Sun 14 Foundry, Sheffield
Tue 16 Old Fire Station, Carlisle
Wed 17 & Thu 18 Liquid Rooms, Edinburgh
Fri 19 Barrowland, Glasgow

TELL ME MORE: Expect 'Same Jeans' singalongs on this tour celebrating 10 years of the Glasgow band's debut 'Hats Off To The Buskers'.
TICKETS: £16.50-£20

SHE DREW THE GUN

Dreamy Merseyside psych group

MARCH
Thu 23 The Horn, St Albans
Fri 24 Oslo, London
Sat 25 Library, Liverpool
Sun 26 The Cluny, Newcastle
Tue 28 Komedia, Bath
Wed 29 Exchange, Bristol
Thu 30 The Deaf Institute, Manchester
Fri 31 The Trades Club, Hebden Bridge

TELL ME MORE: The four-piece won Glastonbury Festival's emerging talent competition in 2016.
TICKETS: £8.80-£10.45

CAMERON AVERY

Expectation-defying bassist from Tame Impala

APRIL
Tue 11 King Tut's, Glasgow
Wed 12 The Deaf Institute, Manchester
Thu 13 Dingwalls, London
Fri 14 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Sat 15 Haunt, Brighton

TELL ME MORE: Known for his psychedelic basslines, Avery is surprising everyone with his Frank Sinatra-influenced debut solo album, 'Ripe Dreams, Pipe Dreams'.
TICKETS: £13.20-£15.40

KATE NASH

THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

BLOC PARTY
Fri 10 & Sat 11
The Roundhouse, London

BOXED IN
Fri 10 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff
Sat 11 Bierkeller, Exeter
Mon 13 Village Underground, London

CATHOLIC ACTION
Sat 11 The Roundhouse, London
Mon 13 The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
Wed 15 The Joiners, Southampton
Thu 16 The Horn, St Albans

DISCIPLES
Sat 11 SWX, Bristol

ESTRONS
Fri 10 Komedia, Brighton
Sat 11 The Cellar, Oxford
Wed 15 Parr Street Studios, Liverpool
Thu 16 The Crofters Rights, Bristol

FIELD MUSIC
Sun 12 Milton Court Concert Hall, London

FUFANU
Tue 14 Gullivers, Manchester
Wed 15 Oporto Bar & Restaurant, Leeds

HANNAH WANTS
Fri 10 SWG3, Glasgow

INHEAVEN
Fri 10 The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
Sat 11 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Wed 15 West End Centre, Aldershot
Thu 16 The Forum, Tunbridge Wells

IZZY BIZU
Tue 14 Academy, Manchester
Wed 15 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London

KATE NASH
Sat 11 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham
Sun 12 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Mon 13 O2 Academy, Oxford
Tue 14 Thekla, Bristol
Thu 16 Phoenix Arts Centre, Exeter

LADYHAWKE
Fri 10 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Sat 11 Academy, Manchester
Mon 13 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Tue 14 O2 Academy, Oxford
Wed 15 KOKO, London

LITTLE COMETS
Fri 10 Komedia, Bath
Sat 11 The Wedgewood Rooms, Portsmouth
Sun 12 Concorde 2, Brighton
Tue 14 Junction, Cambridge
Wed 15 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Thu 16 Saint Luke's, Glasgow

LITTLE SIMZ
Sun 12 The Roundhouse, London

LOYLE CARNER
Sat 11 Waterfront, Norwich
Sun 12 Motion & The Marble Factory, Bristol
Mon 13 The Hub, Plymouth
Wed 15 Engine Rooms, Southampton
Thu 16 O2 Institute, Birmingham

MENACE BEACH
Fri 10 The Magnet, Liverpool
Sat 11 The Deaf Institute, Manchester
Tue 14 Broadcast, Glasgow
Wed 15 Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh
Thu 16 The Cluny, Newcastle

MIKE SKINNER
Sat 11 Unity Works, Wakefield

THE NAKED & FAMOUS
Sun 12 Liquid Rooms, Edinburgh
Mon 13 Academy, Manchester
Tue 14 O2 Forum, London

OPEN MIKE EAGLE
Wed 15 The Jazz Café, London

PAWS
Mon 13 The Victoria, London
Thu 16 The Tooth & Claw, Inverness

POND
Tue 14 Moth Club, London

RAG'N'BONE MAN
Tue 14 Clapham Grand, London

RICHARD HAWLEY
Thu 16 Union Chapel, London

SIGALA
Tue 14 O2 Ritz, Manchester
Wed 15 UEA, Norwich
Thu 16 KOKO, London

SLØTFACE
Mon 13 The Castle Hotel, Manchester
Tue 14 Oporto Bar & Restaurant, Leeds
Wed 15 Nice N Sleazy, Glasgow

SPRING KING
Sun 12 The Bullingdon, Oxford
Mon 13 Engine Rooms, Southampton
Wed 15 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff

SUNDARA KARMA
Sat 11 The Rainbow Complex, Birmingham
Sun 12 O2 Academy, Liverpool
Mon 13 Leadmill, Sheffield
Wed 15 Northumbria University Student Union, Newcastle
Thu 16 Albert Hall, Manchester

TEGAN & SARA
Mon 13 The Roundhouse, London
Tue 14 Albert Hall, Manchester
Wed 15 O2 Academy, Bristol

TINIE TEMPAH
Tue 14 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London

TOUCHÉ AMORÉ
Wed 15 The Haunt, Brighton

TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB
Fri 10 Alexandra Palace, London

VANT
Mon 13 The Roundhouse, London

YONAKA
Tue 14 Sticky Mike's Frog Bar, Brighton
Thu 16 The Shacklewell Arms, London

VO5 NME AWARDS 2017

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Wed 15 O2 Academy Brixton, London

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, ANDY HUGHES

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SUNDAY HEADLINER

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THE SHIRES • TEXAS • WARD THOMAS • JACK SAVORETTI

THE UNDERTONES • THE SHERLOCKS • THE ALARM

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MAYA JANE COLES
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JORIS VOORN
DAVID RODIGAN
HOT SINCE 82
JACKMASTER
KÖLSCH
BICEP
PATRICK TOPPING
PETE TONG
SKREAM
ARMAND VAN HELDEN
FLOATING POINTS SOLO LIVE SET
JON HOPKINS DJ
JAGWAR MA
RATBOY
NAO
LOYLE CARNER
TOM MISCH LIVE
LEVELZ
MOODYMANN
THE BLACK MADONNA
FATIMA YAMAHA
GOLDIE INFLUENCES
YOUSEF
RICHY AHMED
WILKINSON DJ
NOISIA DJ
TODDLA T & COCO
SOLARDO
GERD JANSON
MIDLAND
HUNEE
MIND AGAINST
REJJIE SNOW
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AJ TRACEY
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HORSE MEAT DISCO
ROMARE LIVE
DJ CRAZE
NASTIA
NADIA ROSE
STEFFLON DON
MOXIE
NIGHTMARES ON WAX
NORMAN JAY MBE
THE HEATWAVE
BONZAI
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Soundtrack of my life

Huw Stephens

VO5 NME Awards host and Radio 1's new music champion

CROWDED HOUSE

THE FIRST ALBUM I EVER BOUGHT

CROWDED HOUSE

Together Alone

"I bought this on the big supermarket shop with my mum, on cassette. Supermarkets were the ultimate hipster spots – they had cassette charts! This Australian band wrote some beautiful, melodic songs and I thought they were the coolest people, along with Alanis Morissette, in the whole world."

THE SONG THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

TYSTION

Gwyddbwyll

"This is a Welsh rap track that I heard when I was 15. It woke me up to the possibilities of music. You didn't have to be in a band that went through the motions, you could sing in your own language and reflect your life, not just some stereotype."

THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

THE HOUSEMARTINS

Caravan Of Love

"This is an a capella cover by the band featuring Norman Cook – AKA Fatboy Slim – and Paul Heaton, who went on to form The Beautiful South. This stands out as an early memory, as my older sisters were really into them."

THE FIRST SONG I FELL IN LOVE WITH

QUEEN

Radio Ga Ga

"This was on the 'Live At Wembley' album that came out when I was five. I remember hearing about Freddie Mercury on the news and this live album just sounded amazing. Everything musical belonged to my sisters at this point, as I have three who are older than me."

THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

BON JOVI

Cardiff Arms Park

"A boiling hot day in June. Support from '80's legends Van Halen. Bon Jovi wore leather trousers, so to me they looked like a rock band. They even did a secret gig on Queen Street in town on the bandstand before the main event. All very exciting."

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME DANCE

MEIC STEVENS

Y Brawd Houdini

"This is a Welsh classic and Meic was friendly with Jimi Hendrix back in the day. It's Welsh Language Music Day on February 10 so I'll be playing this loud."

THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF HOME

COLORAMA

Dere Mewn

"This is a song about going home, and it's the most laid-back, melodic and beautiful song. It was produced by Edwyn Collins. Colorama's music is very special."

THE SONG I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO

DAFT PUNK

Harder Better Faster Stronger

"I downloaded an app to learn how to play this song yourself. I love Daft Punk, but I've played this so many times myself, pretending to be them."

DAFT PUNK

THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL

FLAMING LIPS

Race For The Prize

"A euphoric song that sounds so good when played loud. This reminds me of seeing them play in Belgium with my wife. But to be honest, anything will do at my funeral. Put the iPod on shuffle."

THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

BEASTIE BOYS

Intergalactic

"'Hello Nasty' was a big album for me – it all sounded so incredible. I'd listen to their rhymes and tightness over and over, and the production is awesome. I loved their humour and playfulness."

THE SONG I CAN'T GET OUT OF MY HEAD

JAIN

Makeba

"Jain is French, toured with Christine And The Queens, and found these wonderful samples to sing over. This is a real earworm, so when I play it on my radio show it's properly lodged in my head all night."

VO5 NME AWARDS 2017

STREAM THE VO5 NME AWARDS LIVE VIA OUR FACEBOOK PAGE ON FEBRUARY 15 FROM 8.15PM

LAST WORD

The wisdom of the *NME* archives

THIS WEEK

ANDRE 3000

Outkast

February 14, 2004

"I like that in England you call pants knickers. Knickers is such a cool word. I always call my pants knickers now."

PHOTOS: NEIL THOMAS, REX FEATURES

"WE DON'T KNOW WHY NO ONE'S THOUGHT OF THIS BEFORE"
TIME OUT CRITICS CHOICE

"A QUALITY COMPETITION"
LONDONIST

"SASSY"
POPBITCH

"A FANTASTIC NIGHT OUT"
SPOONFED

Musical BINGO

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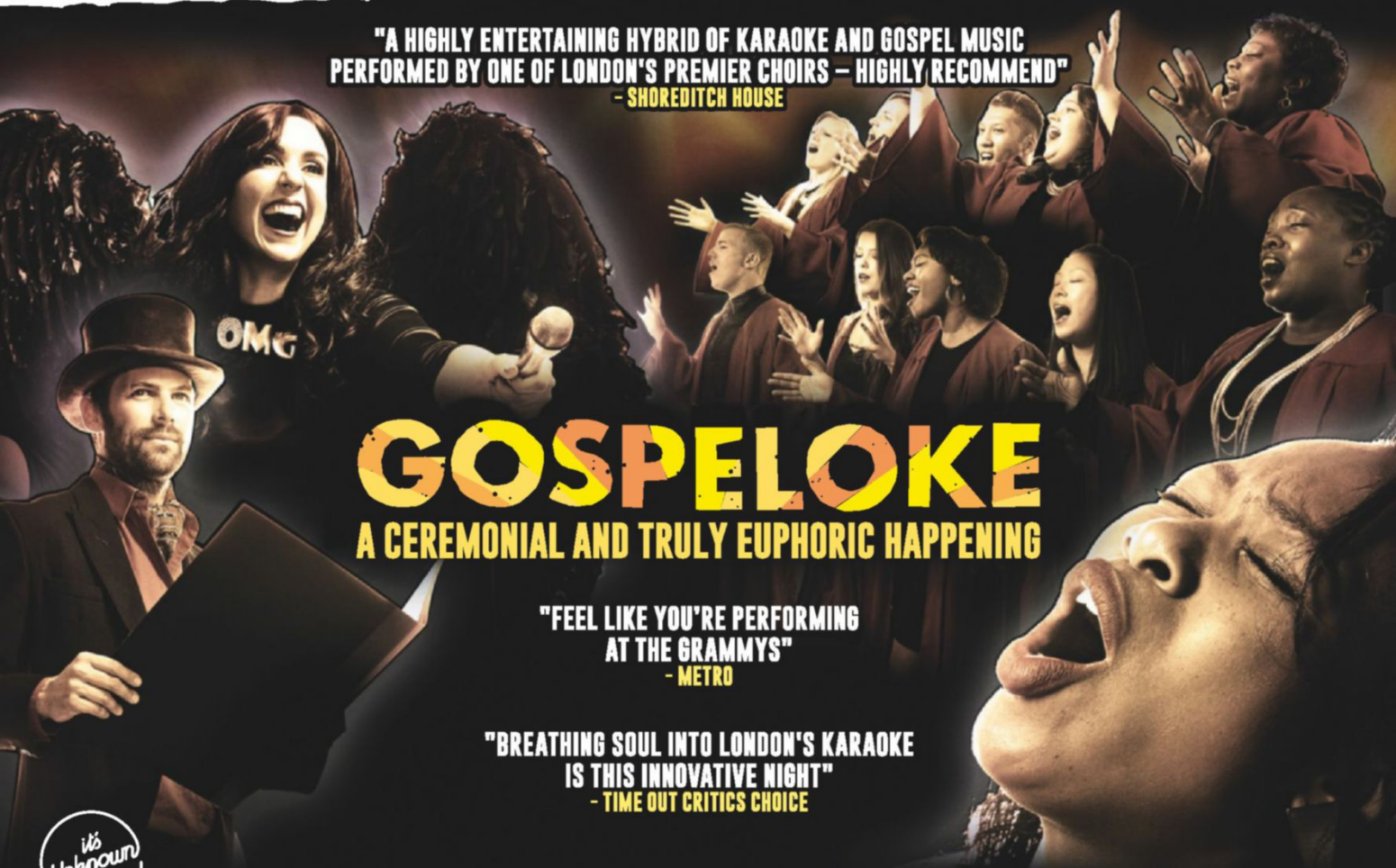
"A HIGHLY ENTERTAINING HYBRID OF KARAOKE AND GOSPEL MUSIC PERFORMED BY ONE OF LONDON'S PREMIER CHOIRS – HIGHLY RECOMMEND"
- SHOREDITCH HOUSE



GOSPELOKE

A CEREMONIAL AND TRULY EUPHORIC HAPPENING

"FEEL LIKE YOU'RE PERFORMING AT THE GRAMMYS"
- METRO

"BREATHING SOUL INTO LONDON'S KARAOKE IS THIS INNOVATIVE NIGHT"
- TIME OUT CRITICS CHOICE

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